

Building, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20585 between 9:00 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday-Friday, except Federal holidays. Minutes will also be available by writing to Ms. M.J. Byrne, Deputy Designated Federal Officer, Department of Energy, Los Alamos Area Office, 528 35th Street, Los Alamos, NM 87185-5400.

Issued at Washington, DC on September 30, 1998.

Rachel M. Samuel,

Deputy Advisory Committee Management Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Office of the Secretary

Federal Power Act; Delegation of Authority to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

AGENCY: Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice of delegation and assignment.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given of the delegation and assignment by the Secretary of Energy to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission of the authority to carry out functions vested in the Secretary under section 202(a) of the Federal Power Act.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bonnie A. Suchman, Department of Energy, Office of the General Counsel. Telephone: (202) 586-3359.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Secretary of Energy (Secretary) has authority under Section 202(a) of the Federal Power Act "to divide the country into regional districts for the voluntary interconnection and coordination of facilities for the generation, transmission, and sale of electric energy * * *" 16 U.S.C. § 824a. This function was originally vested in the Federal Power Commission. Subsection 301(b) of the Department of Energy Organization Act (the "DOE Act") (Pub. L. 95-91) transferred to, and vested in, the Secretary all the functions of the Federal Power Commission not specifically vested by the DOE Act in the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission). 42 U.S.C. § 7151(b). Sections 401-407, 503, and 504 of the DOE Act set forth the jurisdiction and authority of the Commission, an independent body within the Department of Energy (DOE). 42 U.S.C. §§ 7171-7177; 7193; 7194. The Federal Power Commission's functions with respect to dividing the

country into regional districts were not specifically vested in the Commission.

Section 642 of the DOE Act permits the Secretary to delegate any of the Secretary's functions to any officer or employee of the Department the Secretary may designate, including the Commission. Moreover, section 402(e) provides that the Commission shall have jurisdiction over any matter the Secretary assigns to the Commission after public notice. Pursuant to these provisions of the DOE Act, public notice is hereby given that the Secretary delegates and assigns to the Commission the authority to carry out certain functions vested in the Secretary. The assignment is in the form of a delegation.

Section 202(a) of the Federal Power Act provides DOE with sufficient authority to establish boundaries for Independent System Operators (ISOs) or other appropriate transmission entities. DOE has not exercised this authority. However, FERC devotes substantial resources to ISO development and regulation. FERC is also increasingly faced with reliability-related issues. Providing FERC with the authority to establish boundaries for ISOs or other appropriate transmission entities could aid in the orderly formation of properly-sized transmission institutions and in addressing reliability-related issues, thereby increasing the reliability of the transmission system. The Department has therefore concluded that the Commission is the most appropriate agency to exercise authority under Section 202(a). Accordingly, the Secretary is delegating to the Commission his authority under Section 202(a) of the Federal Power Act.

Issued in Washington, D.C. on October 1, 1998.

Bill Richardson,

Secretary of Energy.

Delegation Order No. 0204-166—To the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

Pursuant to the authority vested in me as Secretary of Energy ("Secretary") and by sections 642 and 402(e) of the Department of Energy Organization Act (Pub.L. 95-91) (the "DOE Act"), there is hereby delegated and assigned to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) the authority to carry out such functions as are vested in the Secretary under section 202(a) of the Federal Power Act. The authority delegated to the Commission may be further delegated within the Commission, in whole or in part, as may be appropriate.

Nothing in this Order shall preclude the Secretary from exercising or further

delegating any of the authority hereby delegated, whenever, in the Secretary's judgment, the exercise or further delegation of such authority is necessary or appropriate to administer the functions vested in the Secretary.

All actions pursuant to any authority delegated prior to this Order or pursuant to any authority delegated by this Order taken prior to and in effect on the date of this Order are hereby confirmed and ratified, and shall remain in full force and effect as if taken under this Order, unless or until rescinded, amended, or superseded.

This Order is effective October 1, 1998.

Bill Richardson,

Secretary of Energy.

[FR Doc. 98-26873 Filed 10-6-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP98-798-000]

Florida Gas Transmission Company; Notice of Request Under Blanket Authorization

October 1, 1998.

Take notice that on September 24, 1998, Florida Gas Transmission Company (FGT), 1400 Smith Street, P.O. Box 1188, Houston, Texas 77251-1188, filed in Docket No. CP98-798-000 a request pursuant to Sections 157.205, 157.212 and 157.216 of the Commission's Regulations (18 CFR 157.205, 157.212, and 157.216) under the Natural Gas Act (NGA) for authorization to replace an existing tap, regulator station, meter station and connecting pipeline, all located in Leon and Wakulla Counties, Florida, under FGT's blanket certificate issued in Docket No. CP82-553-000, pursuant to Section 7 of the NGA, all as more fully set forth in the request that is on file with the Commission and open to public inspection.

FGT proposes to abandon an existing regulator station and connecting pipe in Leon County, Florida, installed to deliver gas to the City of Tallahassee (Tallahassee) for its Purdom Plant, and to construct a new delivery tap on its 36-inch mainline, a new regulatory station and less than 50 feet of 12-inch connecting pipeline in Leon County. FGT also proposes to abandon an existing meter station and approximately 300 feet of 12-inch connecting pipeline in Wakulla County, Florida, and to construct a new meter station and connecting pipeline in